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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
2 June 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in South Vietnam  
(As of 9:30 A.M. EDT)

Saigon

1. Buddhist leaders in Saigon apparently have convinced their more militant followers to accept for the time being the government's pledge to expand the Directorate (National Leadership Committee) by 6 June. According to press reports, Thich Ho Giac again addressed some 2,000 persons at the Buddhist Institute today urging them to give the Directorate until Monday to add 10 civilian members. Signs of opposition among the Buddhists to acceptance of the compromise were noted, however. Some members of the Buddhist Monks and Nuns Association reportedly condemned the move and indicated more suicides were in the offing as a protest. During a funeral procession for two immolated Buddhists led by Tam Chau today, marchers reportedly beat a plainclothes security agent but did not demonstrate.

2. In the opinion of General Khang, one of the more militant Directorate members, the Buddhists are suffering from a "severe" power struggle and are losing popular support.

Hue

3. General Nhuan, the 1st Division commander, has moved back into Hue along with several disparate military elements of the 1st Division who are supposedly loyal to the government. According to the Consular officer, however, the allegiance of these troops would probably be to the struggle forces in the event of a showdown. The situation is similar to that of a few days ago when Colonel Khoa moved a

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supposedly loyal battalion of the 3rd Regiment into the city to guard US installations only to have them capitulate in front of the struggle students who then burned the Consulate building.

4. The Consular officer fears renewed violence in Hue and feels that the situation will continue to deteriorate if the government continues to vacillate in its moves to control the rebels.

5. Thich Tri Quang's only reaction so far to the Buddhist-government compromise was in the form of a message to President Johnson. Quang said the attack on Thich Thien Minh was organized by the Ky-Thieu regime. Buddhist leaders in Saigon, however, did not think the grenade incident serious enough to hinder talks with the government. Quang made no mention of the meetings in Saigon between Buddhist Institute leaders and government officials.

#### NOTE

The mid-day edition of OCI's special situation reports on South Vietnam is being discontinued. It will be resumed, however, if warranted by developments. OCI's daily memorandum, The Situation in Vietnam, will continue to wrap up developments occurring between 9 AM and 4 PM.

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